

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 11078

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, TU, PFOR

SUBJECT: EC-TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 11046

1. WHAT EC COMMISSIONER BRUNNER (NOV 11) HAS TO SAY ABOUT EC RELATIONS WITH TURKEY IS INTERESTING AND PUTS NEW LIGHT ON PROBLEM REISED REFTEL. HE SAYS THAT TURKS FOR THEIR OWN REASONS, BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC, HAVE CONCLUDED THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET THEIR COMMITMENTS TO REDUCE DUTIES JANUARY 1, 1977 AS CONTEMPLATED BY ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. ALREADY CONFRONTED WITH HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND ANTICIPATING INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT WHATEVER HAPPENS DEMIREL GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO MOVE TO REDUCE PROTECTION EVEN IF COMMUNITY CEDED ON ALL POINTS AT ISSUE. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, BRUNNER SAID, HE REACHED AGREEMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL TO EFFECT THAT TWO SIDES WOULD TRY TO HOLD ASSOCIATION MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN DECEMBER, MAIN CONCLUSION OF WHICH MEETING WOULD BE THAT FURTHER TALKS WERE NECESSARY IN '77 BUT THAT BOTH COMMUNITY AND TURKEY WOULD ACCEPT FACT WITH MINIMUM OF RECRIMINATIONS THAT EACH WOULD BE IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE 1963 ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

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AND SUBSEQUENT ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS.

2. BRUNNER SAYS THAT EXCEPT FOR LABOR PROBLEM COMMUNITY IS IN POSITION TO MEET MOST OF TURKISH DESIDERATE AND HE VOLUNTEERED THAT PROPOSAL FOR ADMISSION ADDITIONAL TURKISH WORKERS, PROVIDED THEY HAD ASSURED JOBS, WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ADEQUATE FORMULA FOR DEALING WITH THAT ISSUE. HOWEVER, IN HIS JUDGMENT, GIVEN ADAMANT POSITION OF GERMAN MINISTER OF LABOR, THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF FRG ACCEPTING FORMULA PRIOR TO ELECTION OF CHANCELLOR IN MID-DECEMBER. HE THOUGH THAT AT FIRST ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING IN '77 GERMANS COULD BE BROUGHT ALONG AND COMMUNITY POSITION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE BUT THAT NEVERTHELESS TURKS HAVING MISSED JANUARY 1 DEADLINE FOR DUTY REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT BE PREPARED FACE UP TO THEIR PROBLEMS UNTIL AFTER TURKISH ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER.

3. BRUNNER VIEWS IDEA OF ASSOCIATION MEETING DESIGNED TO PAPER OVER DIFFERENCES AND SET STAGE FOR THEIR RESOLUTION NEXT YEAR AS FAR PREFERABLE TO EARLIER COMMISSION VIEW THAT SUCH MEETINGS SHOULD ONLY TAKE PLACE IF AGREEMENT WERE CERTAIN AND ALSO AS PREFERABLE TO LETTING MATTERS DRIFT.

4. COMMENT: BRUNNER'S TRACK RECORD IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT TO HIS IDEAS IS NOT A STRONG ONE BUT IF IT IS TRUE THAT HE HAS SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH TURKS, HE MAY HAVE AT LEAST FOUND WAY TO AVOID SERIOUS DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, UNLESS READING FROM ANKARA IS QUITE DIFFERENT, I CONCLUDE WE SHOULD HOLD IN ABEYANCE POSSIBLE INTERVENTION WITH GERMANS, AT LEAST UNTIL JANUARY.

5. AS SIDE NOTE, BRUNNER SAYS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARIANS MET WITH OPPOSITION LEADER ECEVIT WHO TOLD THEM THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR TURKEY TO DISENGAGE FROM ITS EUROPEAN IMAGE AND TO BE SEEN IN FUTURE AS ADVOCATE OF ARAB AND BALKAN INTERESTS WITHIN EUROPE RATHER THAN AS ADVOCATE OF EUROPEAN INTERESTS IN BALKANS AND WITH ARABS. BRUNNER DID NOT HIMSELF SEE ECEVIT. HINTON

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